

Art Festival

Jefferson Lab's Spring Arts Festival featured the works of 30 artists (Lab staff and family members). The March 31 event brought hundreds of Lab staff, family members and users together in CEBAF Center to enjoy the juried art show, a silent auction, live entertainment and refreshments. The event also raised more than \$700 for the Peninsula Fine Arts Center here in Newport News.

Jefferson Lab Activities Group (JAG) members, and event planners Joyce Miller and Al Gavalya (both Physics Div.), described the event as a great success. "This event was a first of its kind for the Lab," said event planner Joyce Miller. "It was great to have so many talented artists participate in the art show and to see their creative work. I want to thank everyone who participated.

"We were delighted to see so many people come out for the art show and all the fun stuff we planned. I hope there is interest in doing this again. Many people said they wished the event would've lasted longer," Miller added.

Original art representing a variety of media lined the main Lobby on the first floor of CEBAF Center. Paintings and hanging art were displayed from special screens. Pieces of sculpture were mounted on pedestals for 360-degree viewing. Diana Blanchard Gross, curator of the Peninsula Fine Arts Center, judged the art show and presented the awards.

Best in Show went to Walt Akers, Administration Div., for the innovative woodworking techniques he used in creating "Chair!" He crafted the piece from white ash and black walnut. The avid craftsman enjoys woodworking and has his designs available through the JLab Web page at www.jlab.org/~akers/Woodwork/.

Joan Merz, wife of Bill Merz (Accelerator Div.), took the Best Painting award with her oil-on-canvas work "Orange Still Life."

Taking top honors in the Mixed Media/Graphics/Fibre Arts category was Anne



Alice Rogan-Nelson stands next to her three glass entries. The center piece "Frigg" won 1st place in the glass entry

Kushnick, wife of Pete Kushnick (Accelerator Div.), with her scratchboard creation titled "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse." Scratchboard is an art medium whereby a board painted white is covered with a layer of black, then the artist uses a sharp object like an X-Acto knife to scratch out a desired design or image.

The top honor in the Glass category went to Alice Rogan-Nelson, wife of Rick Nelson (Accelerator Div.), with her Pâte de Verre work named Frigg. "Paste of Glass" is an ancient process involving

pressing powdered glass into a mold, then firing the piece of art. Alice said a small piece like Frigg takes a week to produce. After the model has been developed, you create a mold of the model. The mold is then packed with the moistened powdered glass and

allowed to set. Once the mold is removed the piece must dry completely before it is fired in a kiln. Frigg is one in a series of pieces she created representing fertility goddesses from several ancient cultures. Frigg is from Norse mythology.

Steve Christo, Physics Div., took the Sculpture category with his entry “Gate” — one of a series of eight pieces. It is a combination of forged steel and a mixture of ceramic and concrete — carved before and after firing — to achieve a variety of textures. Raw pigment was applied to the surface. The meaning of the Gate is left ambiguous by Christo, so the viewer must decide why the gate is there, and if they want to open the gate or not. It was a piece he felt compelled to do after witnessing a violent crime.

He had many compliments for the event, “I thought this was one of the better JAG activities. Great job! I was surprised at the caliber of the artwork and the breadth of media,” Christo commented. “I hope we have other events like this in the future.”

Winning in the Photography category was the youngest artist participating in the show:



Budding photographer Gregory N. Adams poses with his mother, Barbara, and his award winning photography entry

Gregory N. Adams, son of JLab's Multi-Media Specialist Greg Adams, Physics Div. Young Gregory's winning photos were a series of digital images he took of his father when he was just over 2 years old. In addition to photographing dad, the youngster has also shot portraits of his sister and the family's pastor.

A variety of arts, crafts and gourmet foods donated for the Silent Auction raised \$710 to support educational

programs and exhibitions at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center. The donation earned Joyce Miller and the Lab a kudo in the Daily Press “One Good Turn” column on April 27.

A real treat for the tongue were the scrumptious hand-dipped chocolates prepared by Hall C Designer Diane Hoegerl. Rounding out the afternoon was music by Keith Welch, RadCon, and his band Soundside. Welch and band members Melanie Manning and Donnie Whitley performed a mellow mix of acoustic tunes for easy listening enjoyment. And, the Lab's own caricature artist, Lawrence Ferbee (Stockroom), created caricature sketches on the spot all afternoon.



Keith Welch, RadCon (left), with bandmembers Melanie Manning and Donnie Whitley. "Soundside" performed acoustic music all afternoon